

July 16, 2001

To the Subcommittee on Social Security re: Social Security 75 years...

I support the concept of Social Security as recognizing the dignity of workers in this country. I realize that it was not meant to be the only income of the elderly retired worker, but the truth is that often it is and probably more for women than men. If you abandon this "entitlement" you will find more people that are elderly on welfare. This robs them of their dignity. My suggestion is to take the cap off of earnings that are taxed for social security. Those who are really wealthy are usually much more prepared for retirement.

Along these lines, congress needs to repeal the so-called pension offset and windfall elimination provision. The unfairness of this is beyond belief and attempts to "save" money on the backs of workers who have earned social security (by putting in the required quarters) and yet qualify for another pension such as a public employee pension. My own situation is that I worked for a little over 15 years for a county government agency. All the rest of my working life—starting at age 16 and ending at 64 was spent on social security. My social security income is \$982 per month. If this is a windfall, I don't know what would qualify as a real windfall. I worked the majority of my years paying social security tax. How is this fair?

You should not be saving money on the backs of a relative few. You should not be penalizing those who gave some years to the public by taking away their social security. Please repeal the so called Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination law.

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